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Docket No.: G0126.0205

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Masahiro Hashimoto

Application No.: 09/876,708

Filed: June 7, 2001

For: CONTROLLING A WATERMARK STRENGTH EMBEDDED INTO A

DIGITAL IMAGE

Art Unit: 2625

Examiner: S. H. Azarian

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Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated May 19, 2004 (Paper No. 3), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

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FEE CALCULATION

Any additional fee required has been calculated as follows:

	Claims Remaining After	Highest Number Previously	Number Extra Claims		Rate	Additional Fee
Total	14	- 20* =	0	X	18.00	0.00
Independent	3	- 3** =	0	X	86.00	0.00
First presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim(s) (if applicable)						0
TOTAL						0.00

^{*}not less than 20

No additional fee is required.

In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 CFR 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 CFR 1.135. The fee under 37 CFR 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

^{**} not less than 3